



- 19. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 18, wherein the hygroscopic compound comprises one material selected from the group consisting of glycerol and ethylene glycol.
- 20. (Withdrawn) A method according to any one of claims 7 and 12, wherein the sensing element further comprises a buffer in addition to the dye.
- 21. (Currently Amended) An ozone gas sensing element comprising:
- a transparent porous material comprising a water film formed in a pore of the porous material; and
- a dye which is deposited in a the pore of said porous material and changes in a light absorption characteristic of a visible region upon reaction with ozone gas.
- 22. (Original) An element according to claim 21, wherein at least some pores in said porous material are coupled to pores on a surface of said porous material.
- 23. (Original) An element according to claim 21, wherein a pore in said porous material has such a pore diameter as to attain a predetermined transmittance in the visible light region.
- 24. (Original) An element according to claim 23, wherein the pore diameter is not more than 20 nm at which the dye can enter the pore.
- 25. (Previously Presented) An ozone gas sensing element comprising: a transparent porous material; and
- a dye which is deposited in a pore of said porous material and changes in a light absorption characteristic of a visible region upon reaction with ozone gas, wherein the dye comprises an aromatic compound having a diazo group.
- 26. (Original) An element according to claim 25, wherein the aromatic compound comprises one material selected from the group consisting of benzene, naphthalene, and anthracene.
- 27. (Original) An element according to claim 25, wherein the dye comprises a compound having any one of a hydroxyl group, a sulfurous acid group, and primary to tertiary amino groups.